

SIKHS MUST HAVE A FREE KHALISTAN, ALL OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAVE THEIR OWN COUNTRIES, SIKHS ARE SEPARATE RELIGION, CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND PEOPLE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, all over the world, religious and ethnic groups have their own countries. There are numerous countries dominated by Christians and as we have recently been reminded, there are numerous Muslim countries as well. The Hindus rule India and a few other countries. There are a number of Buddhist countries. The Jewish people have Israel. Only the Sikhs do not have their own country.

Sikhs declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987, naming their country Khalistan. Unfortunately, Khalistan continues to live under a brutal occupation by India that has cost a quarter of a million Sikhs their lives since 1984. Earlier this year, the Movement Against State Repression issued a report showing that India is holding at least 52,268 Sikh political prisoners, by their own admission, in illegal detention without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984. Former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh noted that "there is no family in the 12,687 villages of Punjab of which one or the other Sikh member has not been killed by the police."

As I have previously said, "The mere fact that they have the right to choose their oppressors does not mean they live in a democracy." My colleague, the gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher, has said that for Sikhs and Kashmiris, "India might as well be Nazi Germany." I cannot make a better statement of how brutal India's occupation of the Sikh homeland is. A new Indian law makes any act a "terrorist offense" to "threaten the unity or integrity of India." Under this law, anyone who peacefully advocates independence for Khalistan or any of the minority nations such as predominantly Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, or any other can be held as a "terrorist" for as long as it suits the Indian government to do so. This is not democracy, Mr. Speaker.

When India got its independence from Britain, Sikhs were one of the three nations that were to receive their own sovereign state. Muslims got Pakistan, Hindus got India. Sikh leaders stayed with India because Mr. Nehru and Mr. Gandhi promised them that they would enjoy "the glow of freedom" in Punjab and no law would pass affecting Sikhs without their consent. However, as soon as the ink was dry on the agreement for Indian independence, the Indian government put out a memo describing Sikhs as "a criminal class" and began the tyrannical harassment of the Sikhs. Accordingly, no Sikh representative has ever signed the constitution of India.

Sikhs ruled Punjab as an independent country from 1765 to 1849, when the British conquered the subcontinent. Punjab was recognized by most of the major countries at that time. Under Sikh rule, Punjab was a secular state in which Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, and Christians all had a part in the government. The people prospered.

In June 1984, the Indian government attacked the Sikh religion's most sacred shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Vatican or Mecca of the Sikhs. Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a leader of the Sikh freedom movement had warned that "If the Indian government attacks the Golden Temple, it will lay the foundation of Khalistan." After the Golden Temple attack, the movement for an independent Sikh country, Khalistan, took on steam. As a result, India stepped up the repression. In the words of Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple who appeared on NPR in August 1997, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy, they have nothing to do with a secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority."

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. I must join Atinder Pal Singh, the former Member of Parliament in asking, "why can't the Khalistan, Sikhistan, or whatever name you might like to give it be formed for the Sikhs?"

India claims to be "the world's largest democracy." If that is so, then why can't India do the democratic thing and let the people of Khalistan and the peoples of all the minority nations have a free and fair plebiscite, with international monitoring, to decide the question of independence? Isn't that the democratic way? The United States does it for Puerto Rico, Canada does it for Quebec. Why can't "the world's largest democracy" do it for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Christian Nagaland, and all the other minority nations? Only when these nations are free will the repression of minorities in India end.

The U.S. Congress should go on record in support of self-determination for all the people of South Asia and we should stop American aid to India until the repression ends. The only answer is freedom. Let's do what we can to support it and expand it.

### TRIBUTE TO KAREN STEIN—OUTGOING MAYOR, CITY OF CORONA

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of my hometown of Corona, CA, is exceptional. The city of Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Karen E. Stein is one of these individuals.

On December 4, 2001, Karen Stein will be honored as the outgoing 2001 City of Corona Mayor, after serving two terms on the city council. Currently serving on the Corona City Council's Infrastructure and Economic Development Committees, Karen was first elected to the Corona City Council in 1994. Previously she was a member of the Corona/Norco Unified School District Board of Trustees, the Corona Parks and Recreation Commission and the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

As a past chairwoman of the Regional Water Quality Control Board-Santa Ana Region, Karen Stein spearheaded a successful

effort in 1995 to expand the city of Corona's wastewater treatment plant.

Karen Stein's leadership has been instrumental in strengthening the bonds between the city and business community. A person with passion and principles, who has strived to have a positive effect upon her local community, her other community activities include: the Fender Museum of the Arts Foundation Board of Directors, member of the Corona Historic Preservation Society, charter member of UNITY (United Neighbors Involving Today's Youth) and more.

Unquestionably a leader of women in her community, Karen has received numerous awards including being named "Woman of Distinction" by the Inland Empire Business Press and Soroptimist International.

Karen's tireless, engaged action have propelled the city of Corona forward in a positive and progressive manner. Her work to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations of the city of Corona make me proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that all of Corona is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of the community and salute her as she departs. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of our community in the future.

RECOGNIZING VICKI WILLIAMS AND DEBBIE McMICHEN, BOSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

### HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the teachers of today are extraordinary human beings, dedicated to educating America's youth. Today I would like to recognize two teachers in Georgia who are a step above extraordinary, especially to one little boy.

Just before 8:00 a.m. during the before-school program at Boston Elementary School in Cherokee County, Georgia, Vickie Williams looked over the children watching television and noticed that something was not right with one of the first-grade boys. When the boy began to clutch his throat and became discolored, Ms. Williams realized the child was choking; she responded immediately. While Ms. Williams preformed the Heimlich maneuver, Ms. Debbie McMichen dialed 911 and alerted the appropriate individuals. The two teachers, both CPR certified, successfully dislodged a small hairclip from the first-grader's throat.

Both Mrs. Vickie Williams and Ms. Debbie McMichen were recognized at a Board of Education meeting on October 9, 2001, and today I recognize them for not only being extraordinary teachers, but now, life-savers.

### METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ACT

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Metropolitan Washington

Regional Transportation Act" with my colleagues Delegate NORTON and Representative WYNN.

Mr. Speaker, the metropolitan Washington D.C. region now faces some of the longest and most expensive commutes in the nation. The commuting hours have grown in length to include not just morning and evening rush hour but a growing segment of the entire workday and weekends as well. Moreover, our congestion problems are more than just a transportation problem. They are an economic problem, a quality of life issue, and now, an environmental issue as well. Automobile exhaust is now complicating this region's compliance with requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Unfortunately, as we look to the future, the situation only grows worse. For the period of 1990 through 2020, this region can expect both a 43 percent increase in population and 43 percent increase in employment. This growth and increased dependency on the automobile is expected to increase by 79 percent the number of vehicle miles traveled in the region by 2020. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government estimates that transportation spending is falling short of this region's transportation needs by more than \$1.43 billion annually.

Any solution to current and future congestion demands strategic investment in both our road and mass transit system. It demands better land use and planning decisions and better interjurisdictional cooperation. And, it also demands that this region come together and raise additional revenue to finance priority transportation projects that will provide immediate congestion relief. Now, may finally be the time for this region to come together in a shared vision to raise new revenue and finance specific congestion relief projects that otherwise will not be built.

It may not be a popular idea, but this region needs to do more. I think the key to public support is identifying a list of priority projects that could be completed on a fast track providing the public with the assurances that their additional tax dollars will buy specific congestion relief. A large number of urban communities have already established a dedicated funding source for their transit systems. Where is this region's?

This region needs to look long term and embrace the vision its predecessors did when they created the regional agreements and compacts that created Metro or the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act I am introducing today will help fulfill a new vision and help bring relief to the current gridlock:

(1) It empowers the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board in consultation with local jurisdictions and the public to produce a list of critical transportation projects and revenue sources that will address this region's growing congestion crisis;

(2) It establishes a Corporation with the power to accept revenue and issue debt to provide timely funding for projects that have been agreed to by the region;

(3) It grants congressional approval of a regional compact needed to help meet the region's long-term transportation needs; and

(4) It provides \$60 million in matching federal grants as an incentive to encourage the creation of the federal corporation.

The Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act will help create the political

structure and funding priorities needed to implement a new vision.

#### WORLD PEACE PRIZE AWARD FOR 2001

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, today the World Peace Prize Awarding Council will award its highest honor, the World Peace Prize, to the Vice President of Taiwan, Annette Lu. The Vice President will be the first woman to receive the award.

Ms. Lu has had a distinguished career in public service, and has been concerned in particular to promote democracy and open, accountable government in Taiwan and to further women's rights. In 1979, when Taiwan still had an authoritarian government, she made a brief speech on human rights during a public demonstration later known as the Kaohsiung Incident. Along with many other opposition figures, she was sent to prison for 12 years. After five years in prison she was released to undergo medical treatment, and promptly resumed her campaign for progressive political change on Taiwan. By the early 1990s, Taiwan had largely completed its successful transition to democratic governance. Ms. Lu entered politics in 1993 and became Vice President in March 2000—the highest-ranking woman to be elected to office in 5,000 years of Chinese history.

While Ms. Lu has taken a controversial position on Taiwan independence, one which from a U.S. perspective is beyond the contemplation of the three communiques and the Taiwan Relations Act that underpin U.S.-China relations, the heroic commitment she has made to the democratic evolution on Taiwan deserves the commendation of the world community. We honor Vice President Lu for her commitment to democracy and congratulate her for receiving the World Peace Prize.

#### TURKEY'S SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN—AND BEYOND

**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, the political rule of the Taliban is over. They have been defeated in the north. They have fled from Kabul. They are heading for the hills.

Winston Churchill noted more than 60 years ago as Britain withstood the ravages of the German bombing attacks, this is not the beginning of the end but rather, "the end of the beginning."

We too, are at the end of the beginning of our worldwide effort to combat terrorism. It is a job that we must lead, but it is a job that we cannot do alone. In the earliest moments after September 11th it seemed that just a few nations would stand with us publicly and actively. One of those nations was our longtime friend and ally, Turkey.

Turkey is no stranger to terrorism. For more than 10 years it waged a fight against internal terrorists who murdered its diplomats and killed its citizens. Over the space of that decade, more than 30,000 Turks lost their lives. Yet, Turkey never hesitated in its support to us.

Within days, Turkish airspace, infrastructure and military organization was pledged in aid to the United States. Turkey went farther. On November 1st, Turkey became the third nation, after the United States and Britain, to commit ground forces in Afghanistan. It dedicated a 90-person special operations group to the ground effort.

This gesture is more than symbolic. It is real. These troops have engaged in short and long term reconnaissance missions. They have served as guides for other allied forces. They provide military assistance to humanitarian relief efforts. They work to protect citizens from harm. Turkey's knowledge of Afghanistan and its longstanding links to anti-Taliban forces make this small unit an important cog in our coalition machine.

Moreover, Turkey's commitment sends a larger signal to the Muslim world. As a democracy, indeed as the only secular democracy in the Muslim world, Turkey sends a signal that Islam and democracy are not incompatible. It is an important one for the millions of Muslims worldwide who wonder whether this effort is a disguised attack on their religion.

Mr. Speaker, as important as Turkey's decision was to send troops to Afghanistan, it should not surprise anyone. Turkey has been with us for 50 years in peace and in conflict. They stand with us today, and for that we should be grateful.

#### HONORING EDDY AND SALLY ARNOLD ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as the United States Congressman representing Nashville, Tennessee, I rise today to honor country music legend Eddy Arnold and his wife Sally on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

My father, Governor Frank G. Clement, enjoyed a unique friendship with Arnold throughout his lifetime. In fact, my brothers and I considered him to be a "second father" to our family, offering advice and wisdom about many issues. His family values remain strong today, as does his status as a living legend.

A native of Henderson, Tennessee, Arnold is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, having sold more than 85 million records in his career. As one of the top country music performers of all time, Eddy Arnold holds a number of records in the industry, such as being the only performer to chart on Billboard in seven consecutive decades. Further, he is still ranked as the Top Country Recording Artist of All Time and holds the record for Most Country Records on the Charts.

Known as the Ambassador of Country Music, he has received numerous prestigious awards including the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Award, the Academy of Country Music's Pioneer Award, and